

LBJ to Curtail Social Season

By Drew Pearson

President Johnson is almost certain to curtail the White House social season when he returns to Washington after Christmas.

With casualties in Vietnam running high, the President doesn't believe it's a good idea to put the White House in the position of giving gay parties.

The dinner for Princess Margaret had been scheduled weeks in advance, and no one knew that the Vietnam fighting was going to be disastrous that week. Nevertheless some people got a sour reaction from the festivities.

The impression has prevailed in Washington social circles that the Johnsons have been trying to emulate the Kennedys society-wise. Jackie Kennedy had a lot of New York friends whom she imported for her gayest parties.

The Johnsons have not imported New York's cafe society nor have they danced all night. A good many of the parties have entertained Congress and were highly successful as evidenced by the record number of bills passed by the President at the last session.

But with coffins and hospi-

tal planes now coming back from Saigon, White House dinners will be on a much more modest scale and dancing will probably be cut out entirely.

Next Defense Chief

If and when Secretary of Defense McNamara moves over to the White House to become Assistant President, replacing McGeorge Bundy, the man who will replace him in the Pentagon is Cyrus R. Vance, now Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Vance is one of "Lyndon's boys," trained in the Senate when LBJ was chairman of the Armed Services Special Preparedness Committee, formed after the first Russian sputnik was launched, for the purpose of goading the Eisenhower Administration into more activity in outer space.

Both Johnson and Vance did a good job. Vance had come down from the Wall Street law firm of Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett, recommended by another member of the firm, Eddie Weisl, the New Yorker closest to LBJ.

For three years they goaded Ike for falling behind in the space and missile race, and John F. Kennedy ran for President partly on this platform—only to have McNamara later admit that we weren't behind in missiles after all. We were behind in satellites and probably still are.

Immediately after Kennedy was elected, Vice President Johnson asked him to appoint Cyrus Vance as general counsel of the Defense Department, and Vance has been moved up regularly ever since. He knows the Defense Department as well as his chief McNamara, but won't be as tough on the brass hats.

AFL-CIO Housecleaning

The AFL-CIO's gruff and grumpy President George Meany, who once promised to retire at 65 but is still going strong at 71, is doing his utmost to persuade some of his overage cronies to retire from the policy-making executive council.

He has been under pressure to replace the oldsters with younger men this week at the AFL-CIO convention in San Francisco. Otherwise, he faces a floor fight that might divide labor, perhaps jeopardize his own position.

As a result, Meany has been busy behind the scenes trying to persuade some of the retired union presidents who have been helping him run the executive council to bow out.

Among those Meany is coaxing to get off the executive council are Harry C. Bates, 83, past president of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers; William Birthright, 78, past president of the Barbers,

Hairdressers, Cosmetologists and Proprietors; William L. McFetridge, 72, past president of the Building Service Employees; Lawrence M. Rafferty, 70, past president of the Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers; and Emile Rieve, 73, past president of the Textile Workers.

Three younger men, who have been retired from the presidencies of their unions, are also under pressure to give up their seats on the council: James B. Carey, 54, of the Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers; O. A. Knight, 63, of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; and David McDonald, 63, of the Steel Workers.

Challenge to TV

George Stevens, producer of "A Place in the Sun," has sued the National Broadcasting Company and Paramount Pictures to prevent having commercials dubbed into the film to the detriment of the film's sequence and the disturbance of the viewing public.

Stevens is in a strong position to sue since he owns part of Liberty Films, Inc., which produced "A Place in the Sun." He is seeking an injunction to prevent the commercials and asks damages of at least \$1 million if the picture is cut, plus an additional \$1 million of exemplary damages.

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